

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Project Title:**

Anchorage - Hillside Transportation and Safety: Rabbit Creek Road Intersection Safety Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$ 850,000**House District: 32 - P**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Intersection capacity and safety improvement at Rabbit Creek Road Intersection.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$850,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

*Explanation of Other Funds:**Project is located outside the Anchorage Roads and Service Drainage Area, local bond funds are not an option.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Traffic volumes at the Rabbit Creek Road intersection have increased to the point that capacity and related safety concerns are manifest. This collector street serves Goldenview Middle School and is the only access to the entire South Anchorage Hillside, the fastest growing area of the city. Increasing traffic at the intersection is raising capacity concerns. This project is a high priority for the LRSA Community Council and property owners.

Project Timeline:

July 2008- June 2009

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Local LRSA and RRSA and State of Alaska (Rabbit Creek Road is a State Rd.)

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Jim Lamson

Phone Number: 343-8120

Address:

Email: lamsonjl@muni.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**MUNICIPAL PRIORITY ISSUES****Capital Budget****Other Priority Transportation Projects****PROJECT NAME:** GOLDENVIEW DR SAFETY UPGRADE - RABBIT CREEK RD TO BULGARIA DR**PROJECT TYPE:** Safety**GRANT REQUEST:** \$1,700,000**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This project will upgrade a collector street to current standards. Improvements are expected to include a new road base, new pavement, pedestrian facilities, turn lanes, and street lighting. Intersection capacity and safety improvements at Rabbit Creek Road are also anticipated. This grant request will fund preliminary engineering of the road upgrade and construction of improvements to the Rabbit Creek Road intersection. The planning level budget is provided below:

Design	\$ 2,600,000
Right-of-way/Utilities	\$ 800,000
Construction	\$14,600,000
Total	\$18,000,000

COMMENTS:

This project has not started. This project is the number 2 out of 21 transportation priority for the Rabbit Creek Community Council. This project is a priority to the LRSA, the Community Council, and property owners.

JUSTIFICATION:

This existing roadway is a strip-paved roadway with inadequate pedestrian facilities, drainage, and lighting. Additionally, traffic volumes at the Rabbit Creek Road intersection are increasing to the point that capacity and safety concerns are being raised. This road is the primary access to Goldenview Middle School.

	(000s)						
FUNDING FORECAST	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
9825 - State Grant Revenue - Direct	1,700	2,100	14,200	0	0	0	18,000
Project Total	1,700	2,100	14,200	0	0	0	18,000

Legislative District(s)**House:** District 32-Chugach State Park**Community Council(s):** Rabbit Creek

CONTACT PERSON: Lamson, Jim, PME Capital Projects Coordinator; Project Mgmt & Engineering; 343-8120; lamsonjl@muni.org

\$ 950,000 Prelim. Engineering Goldenview Dr Safety Upgrade - Rabbit Creek Rd to Bulgaria
\$ 950,000 Rabbit Creek Rd Intersection Construction
Existing Rd Upgrade

Susanne Comellas, Past Chair Rabbit Creek Community Council (907) 830-5288

Lori Davey, Chair South Goldenview Rural Road Service Area (907) 830-0379

1. Mountain Air Drive / Hillside Drive Extension - \$4,900,000 Sec. 8 / Pg 7

Currently all traffic is routed to Goldenview Drive from the upper half of Goldenview. This extension will provide a new access route all the way from Romania to Shangri La and out to Rabbit Creek without having to impact S. Goldenview. This will alleviate pressure on S. Goldenview and improve the failing traffic grade due to congestion and accidents. A Traffic light at Rabbit Creek and S. Goldenview to route and calm traffic is not possible due to the grade of Rabbit Creek as it intersects Goldenview. Collector roads are the solution to continued expected growth for this area.

2. South Goldenview LRSA Road and Drainage- \$250,000 Sec. 9/ Pg 75

This project will construct road and drainage improvements in the South Goldenview LRSA, which is south of Rabbit Creek Road and on either side of Goldenview Drive. Existing roadways are dirt/gravel with no lighting. The drainage is inadequate leading to flooding, glaciations, and pothole problems for residents. The requested grant will fund implementation of the Hillside District Plan's drainage Plan for the Rabbit Creek and Survivor Creek Drainages.

3. Bluebell Drive Reconstruction - \$660,000 Sec. 9 / Pg 23

This project will correct the very severe grade of Bluebell Drive as it intersects South Goldenview. This road grade has been the culprit for several accidents involving vehicles sliding down Bluebell and colliding into cars passing on S. Goldenview. The pending development past Bluebell on South Goldenview make this a very urgent request with nearly 1000 new homes slated in the 5 years to drive by Bluebell on Goldenview including 450 senior housing units and a new elementary school. MOA already has engineering plans drawn up for the project.

4. Goldenview Drive Upgrade / Extension – Rabbit Creek Rd to Potter Valley Rd - \$1,700,000 Sec. 6 / Pg 8

This project will upgrade and extend this collector street that serves Goldenview Middle School and a widespread residential area covering over two square miles. This existing roadway is a narrow two-lane, strip-paved roadway with no pedestrian facilities, and inadequate drainage and lighting. Improvements are expected to include pavement, drainage, pedestrian facilities, lighting, traffic calming, and landscaping. This grant will fund preliminary engineering, traffic analysis, public involvement, and design effort. Extending Goldenview Dr. south to Potter Valley Rd is essential for traffic circulation and emergency / safety access in this area. This request is a priority to the LRSA, the Community Councils, and the neighborhoods. Construction cost estimate will be developed in the design phase

5. Upgrade Access from S, end of Goldenview to Potter Valley Road to Year-Round Access \$400,000 Sec 8 / Pg 7

Currently the access road between Potter Valley Road and South Goldenview is summer fire access only. There is substantial new development on track to occur in the Valley and they require to access / egress points. The access available now is through Potter Valley. The request is to upgrade the back access and then South Goldenview RRSA can adopt the road for maintenance.

6. Study Upgrade Options for Goldenview and Rabbit Creek Intersection \$900,000 Sec 9 / Pg 40

This intersection currently experiences failing levels at peak traffic levels. State of Alaska and two Road Service Areas share the responsibility for maintaining the roads. State DOT has examined the intersection, but has no ideas for measurable improvements. This grant would fund the coordinated effort to solve the long term issues. The main challenge to be solved is the severe slope of Rabbit Creek as it approaches S. Goldenview. The answer is to lessen the slope to put a street light in or create some other alternative with vacant land on 3 corners of the intersection.

The South Goldenview Rural Road Service Area Board of Directors allocated \$500,000 of the 2008 budget towards capital improvements in the neighborhood roads. The overall goal is to improve the drainage, road surfaces to a hard surface area for all roads in the next 10 years. The capital improvements are prioritized to gain the greatest reductions on maintenance expenses. For example, it costs 8X more \$ to rip ice than it costs to plow roads. Glaciations improvements pay major dividends for long term improvements.

Desperate Housewives of South Goldenview – 3rd Tour of Juneau

Lori Davey has served on the Road Service Area board for the last 6 years and has watched our area explode in development. To plan for the future growth of the Anchorage Hillside, Lori is also serving on the Community Advisory Committee of the Hillside District Plan.

Susanne Comellas is the past Chair of the Rabbit Creek Community Council and has served on the PTA at Bear Valley Elementary school.

This is our third trip in two years to Juneau to represent the collective needs for the area and we are here to explain why it is important and necessary for the State of Alaska to fund these major road improvements just like the State has in other parts of Alaska.

The current infrastructure is not capable of supporting the demand for growth of the area. South Goldenview is outside of the Anchorage Area Roads and Drainage Service Area and we have no means for building new road and major improvements - other than State grants.

- The demands for new housing on the Anchorage Hillside has resulted in the South Goldenview area absorbing 51% of the new housing growth since 1991 for the entire Hillside Area, and are the recipients of 74% of the current plans in process for development today. (see attached map)
- S. Goldenview is a dead end road - making it the largest Cul De Sac in Anchorage.
- Rabbit Creek road is too steep at the Goldenview intersection to accommodate a traffic light - so our best bet for traffic management is through 2 collector roads. 1 from the upper area to Rabbit Creek through Mountain Aire road and the other off the bottom at the end of S. Goldenview to Potter Valley Road
- We have a new middle school and are slated to receive a new elementary school.
- All roads except for Goldenview cannot accommodate school buses; therefore parents have to take kids to and from school and this create a lot of extra vehicles on the road in the morning coupled with people going to work.
- There are no pedestrian facilities and very limited lighting on S. Goldenview. Children and other pedestrians have no where to safely walk or ride their bike to school without being in the road.
- The grade of Bluebell is too steep for even the most capable winter-equipped vehicles. I slid down Bluebell on 1/31/02 and hit a school bus. This is the day I decided to become involved in our roads. This grade must be fixed before we continue development for the area - and especially before 1300 senior citizens and all the new elementary school children have to pass by it to and from home and school.
- The drainage problems have become unmanageable as development continues and more water is directed to the roads. Water and Hillside roads make a very bad combination. The best way to protect our road investments is to effectively drain the water to the natural water sheds. Our area is especially hydric and can easily be evidenced by the presence of Potters Marsh at the bottom.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like further documentation to support these projects. I can provide pictures, statistics or anything else you may want.